

Council on Postsecondary Education
January 30, 2006

University of Kentucky
Replace/Relocate WUKY PBS Antenna and Transmitter

The following interim project recommendation will authorize the University of Kentucky to use federal, private, and institutional funds to replace/relocate the existing radio antenna and transmitter.

<p>ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the University of Kentucky request to replace/relocate the WUKY PBS antenna and transmitter to a new site with \$863,040 of federal, private, and institutional funds.</p>
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The University of Kentucky proposes to replace/relocate the WUKY PBS antenna and transmitter to a new site using \$863,040 of federal, private, and institutional funds. The project requires interim authorization because the existing tower, which is owned by Sinclair Broadcasting (WDKY), will be demolished November 1, 2006, and the federal grant to support the project requires that the relocation be completed by March 2006.

The Council has the statutory responsibility to review and approve postsecondary education capital projects costing \$400,000 or more, regardless of fund source, that have been approved by an institution's governing board. Since the estimated cost of this project exceeds the \$400,000 threshold, the Council and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee must approve the project before it is initiated. During the interim, when the General Assembly is not in session, capital projects are evaluated under the requirements established by KRS 45.760(14) and KRS 45.763.

This project will allow the University of Kentucky to replace and relocate its public broadcast antenna and transmitter while simultaneously upgrading its facilities to provide digital (HD) radio service. The relocation project is required because the tower currently occupied by WUKY will be demolished November 1, 2006. If the tower is not relocated by that date, it may jeopardize WUKY's ability to maintain its broadcast license (FCC). The project includes a new directional antenna, analog transmitter, digital transmitter, two-hop studio-transmitter microwave link (STL), and transmitter building.

This project is not included in the university's 2006-2012 Capital Improvements Plan. However, because the tower relocation and replacement is critical to the continued operation of WUKY and federal and private funds for implementation are available, interim approval to make the purchase is requested. The university states that the source of funds is the

Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (\$317,084), private gifts (\$160,000), and institutional restricted funds (\$385,956). The project meets the requirement of KRS 45.760(14) that the source of funds is at least 50 percent federal or private. No portion of this purchase will be debt financed.

Following Council approval, the staff will forward the Council's recommendation to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.